

Connecting the Dots



During corrective maintenance to an air conditioning system at a staffed Air Traffic Control facility, a component in the servicing system failed causing a refrigerant release in the equipment room. The safety monitoring system that could have detected the refrigerant release and engaged the ventilation system was offline. The specialists discovered and controlled the leak but required immediate medical attention because of exposure to concentrated refrigerant.

What we Learned



Personal safety is paramount. Therefore, we need to ensure the safety monitoring systems that protect us are operational. Think about it, by protecting ourselves we are also protecting the NAS. Events involving environmental safety or a personal injury could have an operational impact by leaving the SSC without adequate expertise or staffing. Additionally, an environmental safety event at an Air Traffic Control facility could have an operational impact if staff evacuates and Air Traffic declares ATC-0.

Stay InfORMed



1. How could an environmental or personal safety event on the systems you maintain impact the services that your facility provides?
2. Do you make inspecting, testing, and verifying the operational status of safety systems a routine part of your maintenance plan?
3. How do you pause and assess NAS activities that you believe may be unsafe?

